

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 29-33, 35-37, 41-42, and 53 as follows. Please add new claims 57-67 as follows.

Claims 1-28 (Cancelled).

29. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of providing location information in a mobile communication system~~, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

receiving a request for a current location of a mobile station in a mobile communication system;

determining a time at which a last known location of the mobile station was determined;

comparing the time to a threshold time limit; and~~[,]~~

in response to the said step of comparing, providing, as the current location, the last known location if the time is within the threshold time limit.

30. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 29 further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

determining a current location of the mobile station if the time is not within the threshold limit; and

providing, as the current location, the obtained current location.

31. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 29 wherein ~~the step of~~ comparing the time to the threshold time limit is dependent upon the status of the mobile station.

32. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 31 wherein if the mobile station is active the comparing ~~step~~ is disabled and a current location is determined for the mobile station.

33. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 31 wherein if the status of the mobile station is idle, the comparing ~~step~~ is enabled.

34. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 30, wherein if a current location is not provided, the last known location is provided as the current location.

35. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 29 further comprising ~~the step of~~ storing the last known location of a mobile station together with a time associated with the last known location.

36. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 29 further comprising ~~the step of~~ storing the threshold time limit.

37. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 29 further comprising the step of dynamically adjusting the threshold time limit.

38. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 29 wherein the threshold time limit is set by a network operator.

39. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 29 wherein the threshold limit is included in the request for the current location.

40. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 29 wherein the time is an elapsed time.

41. (Currently Amended) A method of providing location information in a mobile communication system, comprising the steps of:

receiving at a network element a request from an application for a current location of a mobile station in a mobile communication system;

determining, at the network element, a time at which a last known location of the mobile station was determined;

comparing, at the network element, the time to a threshold time limit; and[[,]]

in response to the ~~said step of~~ comparing, providing to the application, as the ~~current~~ location, the last known location if the time is within the threshold time limit.

42. (Currently Amended) A network element ~~for providing location information in a mobile communication system~~, comprising:

means for receiving a request for a current location of a mobile station in a mobile communication system;

means for determining a time at which a last known location of the mobile station ~~was determined~~;

means for comparing the time to a threshold time limit; and

means for providing, as the current location, in response to the ~~said step of~~ comparing, the last known location if the time is within the threshold time limit.

43. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 42 further comprising means for determining a current location for the mobile station if the time is not within the threshold limit; wherein the means for providing is adapted to provide, as the current location, the obtained current location.

44. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 42 wherein the means for comparing the time to the threshold time limit is responsive to a signal indicating the status of the mobile station.

45. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 44 responsive to said signal indicating that the mobile station is active the comparing means is disabled and a current location is determined for the mobile station.

46. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 44 wherein responsive to said signal indicating that the mobile station is idle, the comparing means is enabled.

47. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 43, wherein if a current location is not provided, the network element is adapted to provide the last known location is provided as the current location.

48. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 42 further comprising means for storing the last known location of a mobile station together with a time associated with the last known location.

49. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 42 further comprising means for storing the threshold time limit.

50. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 42 further comprising means for dynamically adjusting the threshold time limit.

51. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 42 wherein the threshold time limit is set by a network operator.

52. (Previously Presented) A network element according to claim 42 wherein the threshold time limit is included in the request for a current location.

53. (Currently Amended) A mobile communication system including comprising: an application ~~for providing~~ configured to provide location dependent services and ~~for generating~~ to generate a location request for a user equipment; a network element ~~for receiving~~ configured to receive the request for a current location of a mobile station; a network element ~~for determining~~ configured to determine a time at which a last known location of the mobile station was determined and ~~for comparing~~ to compare the time to a threshold time limit; and a network element ~~for providing~~ configured to provide, as the current location, in response to the ~~said step of~~ comparing, the last known location if the time is within the threshold time limit.

54. (Previously Presented) A mobile communication system according to claim 53, wherein the network element for determining the time at which the last known location was determined includes a visitor location register.

55. (Previously Presented) A mobile communication system according to claim 53 wherein the system implements a CAMEL framework.

56. (Previously Presented) A mobile communication system according to claim 53 wherein the system implements location services.

57. (New) A network element comprising:

- a receiving unit configured to receive a request for a current location of a mobile station in a mobile communication system;
- a determining unit configured to determine a time at which a last known location of the mobile station was determined;
- a comparing unit configured to compare the time to a threshold time limit; and
- a providing unit configured to provide, as the current location, in response to the comparing, the last known location if the time is within the threshold time limit.

58. (New) A network element according to claim 57 further comprising a determining unit configured to determine a current location for the mobile station if the

time is not within the threshold limit; wherein the providing unit is configured to provide, as the current location, the obtained current location.

59. (New) A network element according to claim 57 wherein the comparing unit is responsive to a signal indicating the status of the mobile station.

60. (New) A network element according to claim 59 responsive to said signal indicating that the mobile station is active the comparing unit is disabled and a current location is determined for the mobile station.

61. (New) A network element according to claim 59 wherein responsive to said signal indicating that the mobile station is idle, the comparing unit is enabled.

62. (New) A network element according to claim 58, wherein if a current location is not provided, the network element is configured to provide the last known location as the current location.

63. (New) A network element according to claim 57 further comprising a storing unit configured to store the last known location of a mobile station together with a time associated with the last known location.

64. (New) A network element according to claim 57 further comprising a storing unit configured to store the threshold time limit.

65. (New) A network element according to claim 57 further comprising an adjusting unit configured to dynamically adjust the threshold time limit.

66. (New) A network element according to claim 57 wherein the threshold time limit is set by a network operator.

67. (New) A network element according to claim 57 wherein the threshold time limit is included in the request for a current location.